



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION

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CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL COMMITTEES VIOLATE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE LAW

Olympia – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Susan Brady, found four candidates and two political committees had violated state Public Disclosure laws and issued civil penalties to each during brief enforcement hearings held Thursday in Olympia.

All of the candidates and one political committee were issued civil penalties for failure to timely file campaign finance reports. The other political committee was fined for failure to file electronically.

The candidates who were found in violation were:

Georgia Gardner, candidate for State Senator from the 42nd Legislative District in 2002, was found in violation as a result of a post election audit. The PDC audit showed her campaign failed to timely file campaign finance reports and failed to timely report campaign debts and obligations. A civil penalty of \$300 was assessed with \$200 suspended provided the campaign files the missing C-3 reports within 60 days of the date of the hearing.

David Seabrook, candidate for State Representative in the 18th Legislative District in 2002, was found in violation of state law as a result of a post election audit. The PDC audit showed he failed to timely report in-kind contributions and loans and reimbursing candidate loans in excess of the limit for the primary election. A civil penalty of \$300 was assessed with all of it suspended if he takes steps to bring his campaign into full compliance within 30 days.

Steven Hargraves, candidate for Sheriff in Franklin County in 2002, was found in violation of the public disclosure law for failure to timely report contributions received and expenditures made. He was assessed a civil penalty of \$100.

Ross Hunter, candidate for State Representative from the 48th Legislative District in 2002, was found in violation of state law by failing to timely report orders-placed, debts and obligations and other liabilities incurred during the course of his legislative campaign. A civil penalty of \$300 was assessed with \$200 suspended provided there are no further violations of Chapter 42.17 RCW during the next election cycle.

The political committees in violation were:

Sultanites for the Truth Committee was found in violation of state law by failing to timely register with the Commission and failing to timely file campaign finance reports. A civil penalty of \$300 was assessed with \$150 suspended provided no further violations of Chapter 42.17 RCW occur for a period of four years.

Washington Independence Day Association PAC was found in violation of public disclosure law for failing to electronically file its 2003 contribution and expenditure reports as mandated by statute. A civil penalty of \$250 was assessed with \$100 suspended provided all paper reports for 2003 are electronically filed within 30 days.

Candidates and political committees found in violation at the hearings may appeal the decision to the full, five-member Commission for review of the action taken by the Chair.

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